

Message Text

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SUBJ: MLADA FRONTA REVIEWS LAPO CONCERT IN PRAGUE

1. MLADA FRONTA (YOUNG FRONT), A PRAGUE DAILY,
GAVE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE REVIEW OF THE LOS ANGELES
PHILHARMONIC'S DEC. 8 PRAGUE CONCERT IN ITS DEC. 10
EDITION. THIS IS THE PARTY PAPER'S MOST POSITIVE STATEMENT
ABOUT ANYTHING AMERICAN IN RECENT YEARS.

2. PLEASE CONVEY THE TEXT, WHICH FOLLOWS, TO ERNEST
FLEISCHMANN, LAPO MANAGER.

3. "THE ONE AND ONLY" - "THE PACKED SMETANA HALL PLAYED
HOST WEDNESDAY TO A MAJOR MUSICAL BODY FROM THE U.S.,
THE LOS ANGELES PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA, WHICH CAME TO
PRAGUE FOR A SINGLE CONCERT ON ITS EUROPEAN
TOUR. THIS MARKED OUR FOURTH ENCOUNTER EVER, FOLLOWING
THE ORCHESTRAS FROM BOSTON (IN THE FIFTIES), CLEVELAND
(IN 1965), AND MONTREAL (EARLIER THIS YEAR) WITH A LARGE
SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA FROM THE AMERICAN CONTINENT.
AND ONCE AGAIN IT WAS AN ENCOUNTER BOTH INSTRUCTIVE
AND INSPIRING. INDEED, THE GUESTS UNDER
CHIEF CONDUCTOR ZUBIN MEHTA, WELL KNOWN TO AND
LOVED BY OUR PUBLIC, MAKE UP AN OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE
OF TOP INTERPRETATIONAL QUALITY. THE CONCERT GOT UNDER
WAY WITH THE 3RD SYMPHONY OF AARON COPLAND (B. 1900),
ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF MODERN AMERICAN MUSIC. IT IS
A FRESH, EMOTIVE MUSIC SPRINGING ENTIRELY FROM THE
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CULTURAL BEDROCK OF THE COMPOSER'S HOMELAND, WHICH

GIVES IT ITS STRENGTH AND EFFECTIVENESS. AFTER THE
INTERMISSION THE AMERICANS PERFORMED DVORAK'S
SEVENTH, AND THEY PLAYED IT TO EXCELLENCE. THEIRS WAS
A DVORAK RENDERED WITH MAXIMUM DRAMA AND TRULY
BRAHMS-LIKE PASSION. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LOS
ANGELES PHILHARMONIC CAN BE DESCRIBED IN UNSTINTING
SUPERLATIVES. THE BODY LED BY INDIAN CONDUCTOR ZUBIN
MEHTA HAS MASTERED TO PERFECTION ALL THE SECRETS OF
ORCHESTRAL PLAY. THE BRILLIANT TECHNICAL QUALITY OF EACH
PLAYER, THE PERFECT TEAMWORK, THE SUPERB INSTRUMENTS,
THE BROAD DYNAMIC RANGE, THE ADMIRABLE DISCIPLINE, AND
ABOVE ALL THE MUSICAL FEELING - ALL THESE ARE PARTS OF
A WHOLE MAKING THIS BODY A REALLY UNIQUE MASTER ORCHESTRA."
BYRNE

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NNN

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